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Letter dated 10 September 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to the letter dated 2 August 2013 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations (A/67/950-S/2013/468).

As the international community is well aware, the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" is an illegal secessionist entity that purportedly declared independence in 1983, following the unlawful invasion of Cyprus by Turkey in July 1974 and the subsequent occupation of 36.2 per cent of the island. This act of purported secession was condemned by the Security Council; in its resolution 541 (1983), the Council considered the said declaration as legally invalid and called upon all States not to recognize any Cypriot State other than the Republic of Cyprus, while, in its resolution 550 (1984), the Council expressed grave concern about the secessionist acts in the occupied part of the Republic of Cyprus and called upon all States not to facilitate or in any way assist the aforesaid secessionist entity. As a result, no country other than Turkey has recognized the said illegal regime.

Deviating from the agreed framework for a solution to the Cyprus question, which provides for a unified island, the Turkish side has been attempting to establish a separate flight information region and airspace in the occupied part of the island. Its attempts take the form of harassment of commercial aircraft flying lawfully within the Nicosia flight information region by Turkish fighter jets, daily violations of the Nicosia flight information region and Cyprus' national airspace by Turkish aeroplanes, issuing illegal "notices to airmen" and similar illegal practices. The latest manifestation of these attempts has been the aforementioned letter, wherein a helicopter flying lawfully within the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, after having received permission by the latter's competent authority, was accused of having violated the purported airspace of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus".

My Government considers the escalation of these provocations to be extremely worrying. I wish to underline that Turkey's policy of persistently breaching

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international law and defying international rules and regulations gravely jeopardizes the safety of international civil aviation and the stability of the region, while also causing difficulties for air traffic over Cyprus and endangering the safety and security of airline passengers. Furthermore, Turkey's systematic attempts to undermine the sovereignty and unity of the Republic of Cyprus by promoting an illegal secessionist entity and its unfounded claims to a "national airspace" and by supporting the operation of an illegal "control centre", which, it alleges, has control over a fictional flight information region in Cyprus, constitute violations of international law, as well as of the rules and regulations pertaining to international aviation issues.

On behalf of my Government, I strongly protest the continuing violations of the international air traffic regulations and the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey and hereby appeal for their immediate cessation.

I would be grateful if you would circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nicholas **Emiliou**